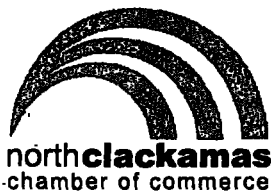


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Chairman Daniel R. Elliot, III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliot;

As the president and CEO of the North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce, representing 610 member accounts with over 27,500 employees, I have grave concerns about freight mobility in our area, state, and nation. In the recent months we have heard there may be changes that restrict their abilities. Our Chamber is in strong support of a healthy freight rail network that supports job growth and continued economic recovery. We oppose any policy changes that affect the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail system.

We are concerned that in this time of slow economic recovery the Surface Transportation Board may consider changing the rules that have been at the heart of fostering rail's role as a key economic driver. The private capital investments, economic activity and job growth created by freight rail in the nation have helped considerably in the economic recovery as we climb out of the worst recession in more than 80 years.

We believe, and hope you will agree, this is not the time for regulators to promote policies that restrict earnings and threaten private investment. Re-regulation of the freight rail system is not the answer and will have disastrous results. Without the prospect of earning returns on investment the system will deteriorate, plans for new capacity will be abandoned and we will all lose as rail becomes slower and less predictable.

As our nation was growing, over a century ago, our rail system was an integral partner in job creation and economic viability; with the regulatory system in place today, one that enables the self-sustaining freight railroads to remain financially healthy, freight railroads can continue to be a jobs engine.

We ask that the Surface Transportation Board not make any changes that restrict the railroads' ability to grow and to continue to meet the increasing needs for the nation in rail delivery. The 1980 Staggers Act created a balanced regulatory system, and should be maintained in its current framework.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important issue and I welcome your response.

Sincerely,

Wilda Parks, ACE
President/CEO

North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce

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